

I would like to have my voice heard on issue 02-230. I will start by saying that I agree that Hollywood, Television, and Music industries have a legitimate complaint and fear of digital piracy. However, I do not agree that in order to relieve their collective fear, I must sacrifice some of my freedoms. This fear that these industries have is by no means new. Has everyone forgotten when the dual-well cassette recorder was released and dubbing was the fear? How about when cassette recorders were built into record players and I could dub my records to cassette? Recording songs from the radio was also in this category. However, the technology that really set people off on the piracy road was the Video Cassette Recorder. Recording shows from the television, or even getting a second VCR and dubbing tapes from one to the other was a major concern and fear. Now then, did any of these technologies ever impact these industries in a major negative manner? I would have to say no. They (the industries) are still running strong. This digital piracy is simply the next evolution of the technology trend. Has it grown? Incredibly. Is it out of control? Quite possibly. Will it truly be the end of the afore mentioned industries? I truly doubt it. Contrary to the popular myth, not everyone in the world has high speed internet connectivity. Even those that do, the quality is still not there. Even if the quality does somewhat improve, if it is a product that you truly want, we will buy it. As a child, my family frequently taped movies from the television. These were always interrupted by commercials (or cut by trying to pause the recording during the commercials) or even interrupted by local broadcasts. So, if it was a movie or a show that I really wanted to experience and enjoy, I went and bought the actual tape. Even today, it has been shown with market research that the music industry hasn't suffered terribly due to MP3 trading. People use these to sample songs and see if they want the whole album. If singers and song-writers can string together more than two or three good songs, people wouldn't need to sample them. As far as all of these industries are concerned, those of us who have a constant source of income and frequently purchase movies, compact disks, and even television series on DVD, we will continue. There is a pride that is felt when you look at the cases in your collection. As far as I personally am concerned, I am very much an audiophile. I love the high quality of the recordings that these industries offer. I have seen the pirated movies on the Internet and the quality is terrible. Even a great deal of the MP3 file on the Internet are poor quality and require a great deal of work to enhance and bring up to the quality of a CD (I have tried to convert my CD collection to MP3 and at times, it's more trouble than it's worth. Especially in the efforts of trying to instruct my family in the methods of now listening to the CD as an MP3.) If I record something from the television, radio, or other source and truly want a great quality, long lasting version, I always must admit to having to go out and purchase a full copy, and rarely have I ever regretted that, and nearly always I have regretted not doing it. Another item to consider is that not everyone will be able to afford this technology. Not everyone has the thousands of dollars to afford the HDTV, HDTV recorder, the computer to transfer the recordings to, the DVD burner to create the DVD and the DVD player that will play the home made DVD. It will take time before this technology is affordable to the everyday person. I believe that it is this time delay that must be respected. Rushing into a decision on this matter is nothing but greedy foolishness. Take the time to see how or even if this technology effects anything. Have a plan in ready and waiting, but not implemented. Technology is always a waiting game and always encounters delays. A great example is the push back dates on the full roll out of HDTV. Also, things like this move in trends. The MP3 trading marathon is slowing, part due to the pressure traders are under, and part because the new and cool has worn off. The same will happen here. It has happened in the past and it will happen again. So please, be patient and wise. Do not act hastily and foolishly, and please do not be pressured by those who fear a loss of money. Money will come and go, but I do not want my rights to go so that money will come faster.

Thank you,

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